IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOHN PAUL SHIMMEL, an : CIVIL ACTION

incapacitated Person, by his parent and duly appointed Permanent plenary guardian of the person and Estate,

BEATRICE SHIMMEL

TRICE SIMMINEE

Plaintiffs

v. : NO. 3:18-cv-00123-KRG

NAVISTAR, INC.;

RUSH TRUCK CENTERS OF

VIRGINIA, INC.;

RUSH TRUCK LEASING, INC.;

EXPRESS LIGHT TRUCKING, INC.;

WEI JIANG; and

SEALAND FOODS, INC.,

:

Defendants

:

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ANSWER OF DEFENDANT, NAVISTAR, INC. TO AMENDED COMPLAINT WITH DEFENSES AND CROSSCLAIMS

Defendant, Navistar, Inc. (hereinafter "Navistar"), by and through its attorneys, Goldberg Segalla, responds to the Amended Complaint as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.
- 2. Admitted in part and denied in part. Navistar admits that in the past it engaged and that it currently engages in the business of designing in part, manufacturing in part, assembling,

distributing, supplying, and selling chassis-cabs such as that described in the Amended Complaint; that it designed in part, manufactured in part, assembled, distributed, and supplied a chassis-cab bearing Vehicle Identification Number 1HTMMMMN5GH433041; and that it has in the past transacted and currently transacts business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Navistar denies the remaining averments set forth in this paragraph including, without limitation, that it designed, manufactured, assembled, installed, supplied, distributed or sold the refrigerated box body apparently installed on the chassis-cab after it lefts Navistar's possession and control.

- 3. Inasmuch as the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to parties other than Navistar, no response is required.
- 4. Inasmuch as the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to a party other than Navistar, no response is required.
- 5. Inasmuch as the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to a party other than Navistar, no response is required.
- 6. Inasmuch as the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to a party other than Navistar, no response is required.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

- 7. The averments set forth in this paragraph constitute conclusions of law to which no response is required. Navistar refers all questions of law to the Court.
- 8. The averments set forth in this paragraph constitute conclusions of law to which no response is required. Navistar refers all questions of law to the Court.
- 9. The averments set forth in this paragraph constitute conclusions of law to which no response is required. Navistar refers all questions of law to the Court.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 10. If a chassis-cab supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, Navistar denies that the chassis-cab was defective at the time it left its possession and/or control, that any act on its part constituted misconduct, and that it or the chassis-cab caused or contributed to cause the accident giving rise to this lawsuit. Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.
- 11. Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.
- 12. If a chassis-cab supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, Navistar denies that the chassis-cab was defective at the time it left its possession and/or control, that any act on its part constituted misconduct, and that it or the chassis-cab caused or contributed to cause the accident giving rise to this lawsuit. Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.
- 13. Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.

<u>COUNT ONE</u> STRICT LIABILITY

14. Navistar incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein its responses to paragraphs (1) through (13), inclusive, of the Amended Complaint.

- 15. To the extent the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to a party or parties other than Navistar, no response is required. To the extent the averments apply or refer to it, Navistar admits that it designed in part, manufactured in part, marketed, sold and supplied chassiscab bearing Vehicle Identification Number 1HTMMMMN5GH433041. Navistar denies the remaining averments set forth in this paragraph.
- 16. If a chassis-cab designed in part, manufactured in part, assembled, distributed or otherwise supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, Navistar denies that the vehicle was defective at the time it lefts its possession and control (including, without limitation, for the reasons set forth in sub-paragraphs (a) through (g), inclusive, of this paragraph), and that it in any way caused or contributed to cause the claimed injuries and damages of plaintiffs. Further, Navistar lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining averments set forth in this paragraph; therefore, Navistar denies these averments and demands proof thereof.
- 17. If a chassis-cab designed in part, manufactured in part, assembled, distributed or otherwise supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, Navistar denies that it is in any way liable to the plaintiff, strictly or otherwise, that the chassis-cab was defective at the time it left its possible and/or control, that the chassis-cab did not comport with the legal definitions set forth as either the consumer expectation test or the risk-utility test, and that it or the chassis-cab caused or contributed to cause the incident described in the Amended Complaint.

WHEREFORE, defendant, Navistar, Inc., demands Count One of the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice and that judgment thereon be entered in its favor and

against plaintiffs, together with an award of costs of suit and such other relief as this Honorable Court may deem appropriate.

COUNT TWO PRODUCT NEGLIGENCE

- 18. Navistar incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein its responses to paragraphs (1) through (17), inclusive, of the Amended Complaint.
- 19. To the extent the averments set forth in this paragraph refer to a party or parties other than Navistar, no response is required. To the extent the averments apply or refer to it, Navistar denies that it was in any way negligent, including, without limitation, for the reasons averred by plaintiff in sub-paragraphs (a) through (k), inclusive, of this paragraph, that it is in any way liable to the plaintiffs, and that it in any way caused or contributed to cause the incident described in the Amended Complaint.

WHEREFORE, defendant, Navistar, Inc., demands Count Two of the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice and that judgment thereon be entered in its favor and against plaintiffs, together with an award of costs of suit and such other relief as this Honorable Court may deem appropriate.

COUNT THREE NEGLIGENCE DEFENDANTS EXPRESS, JIANG and SEALAND FOODS, INC.

- 20. Navistar incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein its responses to paragraphs (1) through (19), inclusive, of the Amended Complaint.
 - 21. Admitted.
 - 22. Admitted.

WHEREFORE, defendant, Navistar, Inc., demands Count Three of the Amended Complaint be dismissed with prejudice and that judgment thereon be entered in its favor and

against plaintiffs, together with an award of costs of suit and such other relief as this Honorable Court may deem appropriate.

FIRST DEFENSE

The Amended Complaint fails to state a cause of action against Navistar upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

The claims of plaintiffs may be barred in whole or in part by the provisions of the Pennsylvania Comparative Negligence Act, 42 Pa.C.S.A. §7102.

THIRD DEFENSE

The claims of plaintiffs may be barred in whole or in part by the applicable statute(s) of limitations.

FOURTH DEFENSE

The claims of plaintiffs may be barred by the doctrine of assumption of the risk.

FIFTH DEFENSE

The claimed damages of plaintiffs may have been caused or contributed to by the acts and/or omissions of third-parties over whom Navistar exercised no control.

SIXTH DEFENSE

Navistar did not commit any act or omission that was a proximate cause of plaintiffs' claimed damages.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

If a chassis-cab designed in part, manufactured in part, assembled, distributed or otherwise supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, the product may have been substantially altered after it left Navistar's possession and control.

EIGHTH DEFENSE

The vehicle described in the Amended Complaint may have been misused either before or at the time of the incident giving rise to this lawsuit.

NINTH DEFENSE

The acts of other individuals or entities over whom Navistar exercised no control may constitute an intervening, superseding cause of the incident described in the Amended Complaint so as to relieve Navistar of any liability for those injuries or any such claimed damages.

TENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs may have failed to mitigate their damages with respect to the losses alleged.

ELEVENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims may be barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of waiver, laches, release, estoppel, res judicata, mistake and/or unclean hands.

TWELFTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims may be barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of spoliation.

THIRTEENTH DEFENSE

If a chassis-cab designed in part, manufactured in part, assembled, distributed or otherwise supplied by Navistar was involved in the incident described in the Amended Complaint as alleged, the claimed damages of plaintiff were not caused by the condition of the product at the time it left the possession and control of Navistar.

FOURTEENTH DEFENSE

The product in question was neither defective nor unreasonably dangerous pursuant to Section 402A of the Restatement (Second) of Torts and, accordingly, the Amended Complaint fails to state a claim for strict liability against Navistar upon which relief can be granted.

FIFTEENTH DEFENSE

The subject product was designed, manufactured and/or distributed in conformity with the applicable state of the art, industry standards and/or consumer expectations.

SIXTEENTH DEFENSE

The utility of the subject product outweighs the alleged risk and the product was not in a defective condition unreasonably dangerous to the user.

SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE

Navistar did not breach any duty owed to plaintiffs.

EIGHTEENTH DEFENSE

The proximate cause of the alleged damages described in the Amended Complaint may have been the use of the product for a purpose, in a manner, or in an activity other than that which was intended, including, without limitation, a use contrary to an express or adequate warning appearing on, attached to, or delivered with the product.

NINETEENTH DEFENSE

Navistar asserts all defenses available under the Pennsylvania Supreme Court opinion in *Tincher v. Omega Flex*, 104 A.3d 328 (Pa. 2014).

TWENTIETH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims may be barred in whole or in part by the doctrine of federal preemption.

TWENTY-FIRST DEFENSE

Navistar denies all allegations in plaintiffs' Complaint not otherwise specifically addressed.

TWENTY-SECOND DEFENSE

Navistar hereby reserves the right to assert upon completion of its investigation and discovery such additional defenses, affirmative defenses, counterclaims, crossclaims and/or claims against third-party defendants as may be appropriate.

CROSSCLAIMS FOR CONTRIBUTION

If Navistar is found to be in any way liable to the plaintiffs, any such liability on the part of Navistar being denied, then defendants Wei Jiang, Express Light Trucking, Inc., and/or Sealand Foods, Inc., are joint and/or severally liable to plaintiffs and/or liable over to Navistar by way of contribution for any sums of money for which Navistar is found liable to the plaintiffs above its assigned percentage of fault and/or responsibility or as otherwise provided by the statutory, common or other applicable law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DENIAL OF ALL CROSSCLAIMS

Navistar denies any crossclaims that might be asserted against it in this lawsuit by any of the other defendants for contribution, indemnity or otherwise.

JURY DEMAND

Defendant, Navistar, Inc., hereby demands a trial by jury as to all issues.

Respectfully submitted,

GOLDBERG SEGALLA

BY: /s Robert J. Hafner

Robert J. Hafner (PA44105) 1700 Market Street, Suite 1418 Philadelphia, PA 19103

TEL: (609) 986-1377 FAX: (609) 986-1301

Email: rhafner@goldbergsegalla.com

Attorney for defendant, Navistar, Inc.

Dated: March 3, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of March, 2020, a copy of the foregoing Answer to Amended Complaint of Defendant, Navistar Inc., with Defenses and Crosslcaims was filed electronically this day and is available for viewing from the Court's ECF system. Notice of the filing will be sent to all counsel of record via the Court's ECF system.

/s Robert J. Hafner

Robert J. Hafner (PA44105) 1700 Market Street, Suite 1418 Philadelphia, PA 19103

TEL: (609) 986-1377 FAX: (609) 986-1301

Email: rhafner@goldbergsegalla.com

Attorney for defendant, Navistar, Inc.